

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A footrest assembly including: a solid footrest made of plastic material; and a clip provided on the floor-facing side of said footrest to receive therein a stud fixed on a floor of a vehicle body, said stud being formed as a threaded stud or a rod-shaped stud having a groove in the periphery thereof, whereby said footrest can be mounted on said floor by pushing said footrest toward said floor to receive said stud in said clip,

wherein said clip comprises a first clip component having an engagement pawl adapted to engage with said stud, and a second clip component capable of releasing the engagement between said engagement pawl of said first clip component and said stud,

wherein said first clip component is formed in a tubular body having said engagement pawl on the inside thereof, said first clip component being immovably fixed to said footrest, and

wherein said second clip component is received in the tubular portion of said first clip component in a rotatable manner about the axis of said tubular portion to allow selective angular rotation of said second clip component between an engagement position where said engagement pawl of said first clip component is allowed to engage with said stud and a release position where said engagement pawl is bent not to engage with said stud.

2. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A footrest assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said second clip component is formed to be received in said first clip component in its entirety; said second clip component includes a head having a diameter to be received in an upper segment of said first clip component, and a release cam extending downward from said head to a position adjacent to said engagement pawl, said release cam being formed not to engage with both said engagement pawl and an extension of said engagement pawl when said second clip component is in said engagement position but to engage with said engagement pawl or said extension of said engagement pawl so as to move said engagement pawl away from said stud when said second clip component is in said release position, and wherein the top surface of said head of said second clip component is formed with a tool engagement portion, and said footrest is formed with a hole extending from the surface thereof to allow a tool to be engaged with said tool engagement portion.

3. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A footrest assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein [[the]] a side surface of said head of said second clip component and [[the]] an inner peripheral surface of said first clip component surrounding said side surface of said head are formed with a combination of a protrusion and a depression to be fitted moderately with said protrusion, for preventing the angular rotation of said second clip component when said second clip component is in said engagement position.

4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A footrest assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein said engagement pawl of said first clip component is provided with a release lever at a position engaging with said release cam, and said release lever is connected to [[the]] an inner wall of said tubular body of said first clip component so that said engagement pawl is applied with a resilience biasing in the direction allowing engagement with said stud, and said release lever is formed to be bent to allow said engagement pawl moving radially outward to disengage from said stud when said release cam engages with said release lever at said release position.

5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A footrest assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said release lever and said release cam are formed with a combination of a protrusion and a depression to be fitted moderately with said protrusion, for preventing the angular rotation of said second clip component when said second clip component is in said release position.

6. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A footrest assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein said head of said second clip component is formed as a circular plate to be brought into tight contact with a hollowed cylindrical portion formed in said upper segment of said first clip component so as to seal said upper segment of said first clip component, and said first clip component has an outer peripheral wall extending continuously from said upper segment to a stud-receiving opening so as to surround the inner space of said first clip component, whereby during the molding process of said footrest, the plastic material is prevented from entering inside said first clip component.

7. (Original) A clip for a footrest assembly, said clip being provided on the floor-facing side of a solid footrest made of plastic material so as to fixedly mount said footrest on a floor of a vehicle body by use of a stud fixed on said floor, said stud being formed in either a threaded stud or a rod-shaped stud having a groove in the periphery thereof, said clip comprising:

a first clip component having an engagement pawl adapted to engage with said stud; and a second clip component capable of releasing the engagement between said engagement pawl of said first clip component and said stud,

wherein said first clip component is formed as a tubular body having said engagement pawl on the inside thereof, said first clip component being adapted to be immovably fixed to the footrest, and

said second clip component is received in a tubular portion of said first clip component in a rotatable manner about the axis of said tubular portion to allow selective angular rotation of said second clip component between an engagement position where said engagement pawl of said first clip component is allowed to engage with said stud and a release position where said engagement pawl is bent not to engage with said stud.

8. (Currently Amended) A clip as defined in claim 7, wherein said second clip component is formed to be received in said first clip component in its entirety; said second clip component includes a head having a diameter to be received in an upper segment of said first clip component, and a release cam extending downward from said head to a position adjacent to said engagement pawl, said release cam being formed not to engage with both said engagement pawl and an extension of said engagement pawl when said second clip component is in said engagement position but to engage with said engagement pawl or said extension of said engagement pawl so as to move said engagement pawl away from said stud when said second clip component is in said release position; and the top surface of said head of said second clip component is formed with a tool engagement portion.

9. (Currently Amended) A clip as defined in claim 8, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a side surface of said head of said second clip component and ~~[[the]]~~ an inner peripheral surface of said first clip component surrounding said side surface of said head are formed with a combination of a protrusion and a depression to be fitted moderately with said protrusion, for preventing the angular rotation of said second clip component when said second clip component is in said engagement position.

10. (Currently Amended) A clip as defined in claim 7, wherein said engagement pawl of said first clip component is provided with a release lever at a position engaging with said release cam, and said release lever is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ an inner wall of said tubular body of said first clip component so that said engagement pawl is applied with a resilience biasing in the direction allowing engagement with said stud, and said release lever is formed to be bent to allow said engagement pawl moving radially outward to disengage from said stud when said release cam engages with said release lever at said release position.

11. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 10, wherein said release lever and said release cam are formed with a combination of a protrusion and a depression to be fitted moderately with said protrusion, for preventing the angular rotation of said second clip component when said second clip component is in said release position.

12. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 8, wherein said head of said second clip component is formed as a circular plate to be brought into tight contact with a hollowed cylindrical portion formed in said upper segment of said first clip component so as to seal said upper segment of said first clip component, and said first clip component has an outer peripheral wall extending continuously from said upper segment to a stud-receiving opening so as to surround the inner space of said first clip component, whereby during the molding process of said footrest, the plastic material is prevented from entering inside said first clip component.